

NLT 7A.61

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

ER 1-2658

22 September 1950

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: The Korean Situation

I. Military Situation

Summary

Hard fighting continues between the North Korean defenders of Seoul and the US Marines on the western outskirts of the city and in the industrial suburb of Yongdungpo on the southern side of the Han River. US Army units have secured the town of Suwon nearly 20 miles south of Seoul. In southeastern Korea, UN forces have made substantial gains in several sectors, but even though enemy resistance is slackening on some fronts, there is no evidence of a general enemy withdrawal or disintegration.

Ground

Seoul Area. Heavy enemy resistance continues in the Seoul suburb of Yongdungpo on the south bank of the Han River, and Marines on the north bank are meeting stiff enemy resistance on the northwestern outskirts of Seoul. The occupation of Suwon by US 7th Division troops on the main north-south highway and railroad 20 miles south of Seoul, combined with the Marine position across the railroad northwest of Seoul, leaves only one other route from south-central Korea open to enemy reinforcements attempting to enter the city.

Southeastern Area. On the front near Masan, the US 25th Division pushed forward up to 8,000 yards toward Chinju against light enemy opposition, but stiff enemy resistance prevented forward movement of the Division's southern flank. Further to the north in the US 2nd Division zone, accurate enemy mortar and artillery fire forced the US 9th RCT to withdraw to the east bank of the Nakdong River. Other elements of the 2nd Division expanded their bridgeheads west of the Nakdong against moderate to heavy enemy resistance. In the Taegu area, UN elements are within two miles of Songju and US 1st Cavalry units have pushed five miles northwest of Waegwan on the main road to Kumchon. Other elements of the 1st Cavalry Division gained 12,000 yards north of Tabu-dong, passing through Hajang-dong without meeting enemy opposition. ROK units mopped up enemy pockets in the Walled City north of Taegu, captured Uihung, and advanced several miles north of Pohang on the east coast to the town of Hnghae.

Declassified by 032769

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Navy

UN carrier-based aircraft continue to provide close support to UN ground forces in the Seoul area and to strike at enemy transportation facilities in west central Korea. UN naval units supported the advancing ground units north of Pohang and west of Masan in the southeastern area.

Air

Good weather permitted another day of maximum air support by UN air forces. Close coordination was achieved with ground units in a concentrated attack against an estimated 30 enemy tanks and self-propelled guns in the Songju area west of Taegu.

II. General Situation

Radio Pyongyang reports that more than 800,000 youths in North Korea have enlisted in the People's Armed Forces while more than 400,000 in the occupied southern area have enlisted in the volunteer corps. The broadcast did not enlarge upon the state of training or present disposition of these enlistees.

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